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What's a Capon and Why

By

"The Capon Man

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12 Lbs. KING CAPON 12 Lbs.

Photo by Dressing from Live Capon. Note the Small Head, Absence of Comb, Heavy Body and Meek Appearance, not Found in the Entire Male Bird.

What's a Capon and Why

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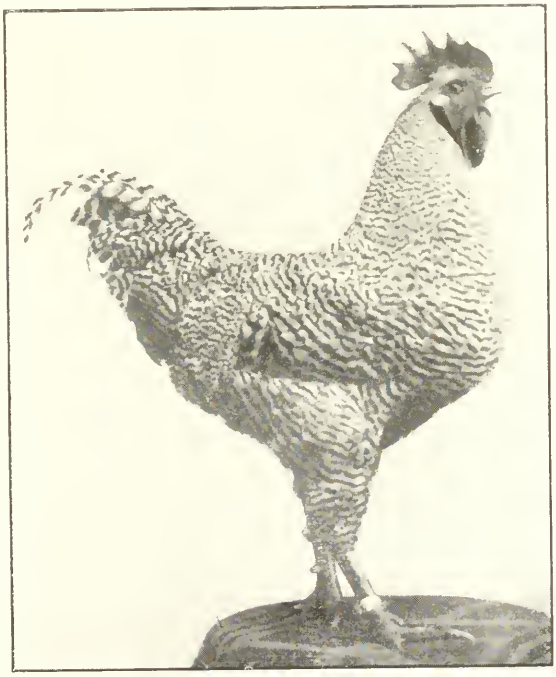
A capon is an unsexed male bird. They are not hatched that way. To become a capon a young male bird must be operated on in much the same manner as any other male animal intended for eating purposes. The operation correctly performed, the capon grows to twice the size he would have had he been left entire. His flesh is the juiciest, sweetest and most tender



A Rooster. Note the Slim Body, Heavy Comb and "Eleeky" Appearance not Found in the Capon.

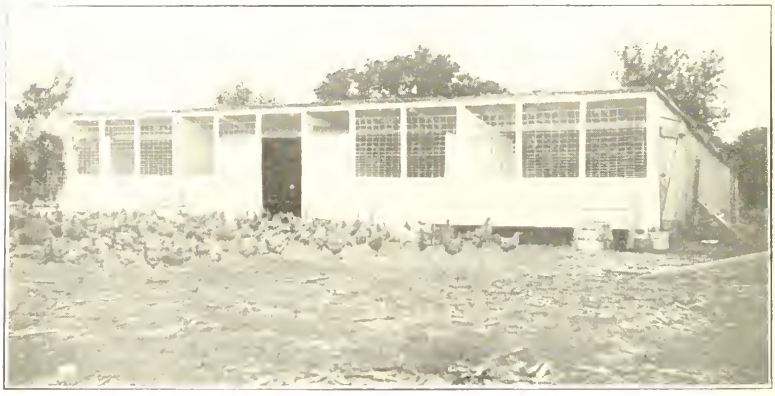
of any known meat, selling for much more per pound than any other kind of fowl. In fact, the capon has become a modern necessity. Formerly capon was the most expensive luxury to be had. Capon in the olden times was the crowning event in the feast of the ancient kings and queens. Capons are still the greatest delicacy that can be placed before the particular epicure. Their

rich, wholesome, tender flesh contains the life-giving, brain-forming, strength-producing food that is required by the high strung workingman of modern times, be his work indoors or out.

Up to the present time "Capons" have been enjoyed only by the wealthy and well-to-do classes, with the possible exception, perhaps, of a very few expert poultrymen that had mastered the art and learned to perform the operation with the old style tools. Modern invention and ingenuity have placed the capon within the reach of every one with energy and ambition enough to feed and care for a chicken. In order to have some capons, all that is necessary is to remove the young cockerel's reproducing organs. These organs are not exposed on the outside of the body as they are in the larger animals, but are carried on the inside. You will find them just under the backbone, one on each side, and in line between the last two ribs.

In order to remove these organs it is absolutely necessary to use some kind of instrument. The success of the operation will depend upon the character of the tools used.

It is a fact that capons should be found in every section where chickens are raised the world over. Yet there are a great many



A Scene on the Dingley Dell Farm, Cedar Vale, Kansas. An Open Front House, the Best Type for Housing Any Kind of Chickens, Especially "Capons." This House Has Four Rooms, is Fifty Feet Long and Sixteen Feet Deep. Note the Nest Boxes on Outside, Dog and Hog Proof.

people in America that have never heard of a capon. Surely there must be some good reason why poultry raisers have not made more capons. By all the laws of common sense they should be as popular in the poultry yards as steers are in the cattle lots. The demand for capon is just as great as it is for steers. Capon commands much the higher price per pound on the open market, and the supply has never as yet been sufficient to meet the requirements. Why, then, has not caponizing become more general? Simply "because" with the old-style tools there were too many "slips." Very few birds are killed, or even hurt, by the operation. Unless

you attempt to use some sort of sharp-edged clipping testicle remover, which is very dangerous. The real discouraging feature heretofore has been due to the large amount of "slips" that would develop from each bunch operated on.

"A slip" is no good. He is the scoundrel that has kept the profitable, kind-hearted capon from becoming the most popular bird that the world has ever known. The slip himself cannot be personally blamed for this. The fact is, he no doubt would much prefer to be a capon and in due time enter into his proper place in high society. The slip, however, has to be content with a place midway between the capon and the old rooster. Bringing on the market a few cents per pound more than his daddy, the old rooster, and much less than his kind-hearted brother, the capon. A slip is caused by an imperfect operation, due principally to a wrongly constructed tool. In making a capon the parts to be removed are very soft and tender, almost like jelly, and attached to the bird with cords and membranes. Much the same as in other animals, except that the organs are inside the bird's body. The nature of the fowl is such that the smallest particle of these organs, cords or adhering membranes left in the bird will result in nature trying to grow a new organ. With the old-style tools it is almost impossible to remove them entire. In fifty to sixty per cent of the cases enough is usually left to cause nature to try to replace them, resulting in the discouraging, unprofitable slip. Hence the shortage in the world's supply of capons. Of course there are some exceptions; certain sections of the country near the large critical markets, where capons command forty to fifty cents per pound, have stuck to the problem on account of the unusual large profits that were to be made from capons. Certain individuals, after much practice and many expensive experiences, have mastered the art with the old style tools, until they were able to get a fairly large per cent of capons.

These men have made a business of caponizing for the community, charging so much per bird operated on for their services. Wherever one of these experts is available the capon industry has developed to large proportions.

In summing up the facts it at once becomes apparent that capons are very profitable and much to be desired. The real reason they are not more generally found in this country is the lack of a set of instruments that the ordinary person can use successfully without special training.

Within the last six months of 1911 such tools have been perfected and patented. Personally I have tried out these tools and know that they are all that is claimed for them. These tools were originally invented and patents obtained or applied for by George Beuoy and afterwards disposed of by him to the Capon Tool Company of Cedar Vale, Kan. These tools work practically automatically and very little skill is required to make a capon with them. Rightly used a slip is impossible. Once tried you will never be without capons—they are the greatest eating to be had.

That is what we have always thought, but after we had the pleasure of reading the following letter we knew it to be a fact. Surely no higher authority than the president of the American Poultry Association need be cited on this point:

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 24, 1909.

Dear Mr. Benoy, Cedar Vale, Kan.

Dear Mr. Benoy:—I cannot begin to express the thanks of myself and family for the magnificent capon you sent us. He arrived in the afternoon, and when I got home I found my little boys had him out playing with him and they thought that he was about big enough to make a horse. I have to leave this afternoon, and I just could not bear the thought of leaving without tasting some of that juicy bird. So last night I killed and dressed him and today we had him good and brown. Now I am not flattering you when I say that I have eaten pheasants, ducks, geese and chickens cooked by some of the most expert chefs in America, but I never ate anything equal to that capon. I really dread to leave home this afternoon, for two reasons: First, I fear the entire family have eaten so much capon that they will likely get down. Second, I would like to be here for another fine lunch off of that capon served cold. There were twelve of us ate a magnificent meal today. Now, this is counting in my family and visitors that we invited in to partake of the feast, and still there was to spare. We did not quite get twelve baskets full of fragments, but they have plenty left for supper and I am going away in a short time and will miss finishing the treat. You know how the women appreciate something nice for the table; well, my wife was certainly happy to get that fine capon, and she joins me in expressing our thanks. Mr. Benoy, I do not know how I can ever pay you for your kindness in this matter, and I hope when I see you at Wichita (at the State Poultry Show) I will be able to make good with you in some way to show you that I appreciate your kindness far more than this letter begins to express.

Wishing you a merry Xmas and a happy New Year, I am,

Cordially yours,

Reese V. Hicks.

The above letter to Mr. Benoy was written by Mr. Hicks, at the present time president of The American Poultry Association, and at that time, as he still is, editor-in-chief of *Poultry Culture*. President Hicks voices the sentiments of every one that have tried capons. They are undoubtedly the best eating to be had. Under present conditions they are not an expensive luxury, but within the reach of everyone.

CHAPTER II.

CAPONS AS FOSTER MOTHERS.

Did you ever see a capon with a brood of little chicks? No! Well, you have certainly missed something worth an effort to see, even though you never expect to raise a chicken as long as you live. It certainly is an interesting sight to see a capon performing the mother's duties. When it comes to taking real good, attentive, loving care of a brood of newly-hatched chicks the capon has the "old hen" beaten at every turn. In the first place, his plumage is much more abundant, the feathers are longer and softer and his spread of wing is much greater than Madam Hen; in fact, his accommodations are much more ample in every respect. The capon has a commanding cluck, cluck that the little chicks seem to understand perfectly, and when the occasion demands he has the capacity to raise his voice so that the youngsters that have strayed some distance away may hear him and regain the brood in time to avoid danger. Best of all, the hawk does not fly that can take a chick from a good Barred Plymouth Rock capon. On various occasions I have seen a capon with a brood of chicks take a running shot at a hawk, the big yellow kind, that was in the act of seizing a chick and knock the hawk as much as ten feet rolling on the ground. As the hawk regained his wings he lost no time in getting away, and no further trouble was experienced from that particular bird. Of course, it is understood that a capon does not set and hatch the eggs. But he will and does cluck and hover a motherless brood of chicks willingly and much better than the best of hens. All hens are not alike, some are better than others with chicks; capons are the same in that respect, some are better than others.

Rightly handled, we have never seen a capon that would refuse to mother a brood of newly-hatched chicks. In connection with the incubator, they have proved to be the best method of brooding the little chicks that we have ever tried. Always ready to take the little fluffy balls of down and care for them until they are mature chickens, if not weaned from them sooner. Where it is advisable to change the father capon from a bunch of larger to smaller chicks, it is of course necessary to wean him from the larger ones. To accomplish this it is best to shut the capon up in rather a dark place, for three or four days, entirely away from the old brood. The younger chicks may then be placed under him some night and left the following day with him, after which he will usually take up with them and no further trouble be experienced. It is no trouble to start a capon with little chicks in the first place. They just naturally take to young chicks the same as a duck takes to water. It is important that the capon be quite gentle or he will be more difficult to handle. For best results have a small yard with a coop in it. Place the capon in this yard a few

days before you intend to give him the chicks. It will give him time to get located and at home in his new quarters. If the capon has never raised chicks before it is best that the chicks be about one week old to start him with. As the brood coop has no perches in it, the capon will go to roost squatting on the floor. Just about dark take the little chicks out and place them under his wings, one or two at a time, until they are all under. The capon will not object to this, but will rather like it. Should he for any reason seem to be restless, tickle him under the chin and talk to him a little in a soothing voice, and all will soon be well. You will have to be up good and early the next morning to see how things progress.

Usually the next morning the capon will be talking, scolding and hovering the little fellows the same as the hen. Sometimes one will seem to be in doubt, will hold up one foot in his feathers, standing on one leg, and not say much. Where they perform in this manner take the chicks entirely away from them and try it again the second night, in the meantime keeping the capon confined to the coop and as dark as possible. By the second morning the most obstinate of them will be clucking and ready to fight for the brood. After they have once learned how to do it right, young newly hatched chicks may be given to them with perfect safety. In warm weather one capon will care for thirty chicks, but we have found it much better to have only twenty chicks to the capon. At the big Topeka Poultry Show in January, 1911, George Benoy, of the Dingley Dell Farm, Cedar Vale, Kan., had on exhibition two capons, with twenty newly-hatched chicks to each capon. The chicks were about one week old, were hatched in an incubator, and shipped from Cedar Vale to Topeka the two coldest days of that year, the thermometer registering 12 degrees below zero. The chicks, going astray, were on the road two nights and one day, without feed or water. The little chicks were right in a box 14x36 inches, with the capons, and came through without the loss of a single chick. Truly a remarkable performance. Something that would have been impossible with the best of mother hens, but only a fair example of what may be expected of a capon with little chicks. Hundreds of people saw these birds, as they were the center of attraction at that great show. Mr. Benoy is a breeder of Barred Plymouth Rocks with a national reputation, birds bred and raised by him having won more prizes at the really large and up-to-date shows than any other breeder of that variety in the Central West. Many of his prize winners were raised by capons, that being the only system on his large poultry farm, having discarded the brooders entirely in favor of the capons. In communities where capons are well known they are used almost exclusively for raising little chicks. It makes no difference if the chicks are hatched under hens instead of incubators, it pays to take them from the hen and let the capon care for them; put the hen back on the laying job and let her fill the egg basket while daddy capon scratches for the young chicks. It seems hard for some to believe that capons will actually do all this, and this point is well illustrated in the following true incident:

A certain bank cashier in our town became very much interested in capons as a pastime. He secured a few cockerels and operated on them, taking a great deal of interest in the work as a diversion from his more strenuous occupation, and incidentally, enjoying a fine capon feast with friends now and then. On one such occasion early last spring, soon after he had started his first capon with little chicks, his little grandson, just learning to talk real plain, was amongst the favored ones. The cashier, bubbling over with enthusiasm and delight with his success as producer and trainer of expert mother nurses, called the guests out to see for themselves. The sight was new and impressive, as the banker scattered bits of corn bread before the capon and his brood of baby chicks. Everybody was very quiet, contemplating the scene. About the only sound to be heard was the encouraging cluck, cluck of the old bird as he insisted that the little fellows partake of the feast as he broke apart the most choice morsels for them. All at once, in a very solemn voice, the grandson inquired: "Say, Grandpa, is that a daddy hen?"

CHAPTER III.

HIGH PRICES FOR CAPONS.

Capons bring high prices; there will always be a demand for them far in excess of the supply. Some makers of capon instruments have enlarged on the prices obtainable for capons and overstated the facts. No doubt but that 40 to 50 cents per pound can be obtained in certain aristocratic sections for dressed capon in

Helen Bonoy, Ten Years Old, Operating on a Live Bird. Photo by Ocie Sartin, Cedar Vale, Kansas.

fancy style. However, that is not what interests the average producer. It is the price readily obtainable on the open market that should govern them. Careful observations covering the last five years and based on Central Western conditions show that the

average price in season for capons to be right around 20 cents per pound. In some instances as low as 15 cents per pound, live weight. Farther East, where capons are better known, the price was much better.

It is not a question of how much you can get for the capon; the point, is you cannot afford to be without capons, even though you never intend to sell one. One capon will more than pay for a set of tools that will last forever. As a source of food supply they cannot be ignored. With a good set of instruments in your possession you at once have unlimited access to the greatest table delicacy obtainable in ancient or modern times, a so-called luxury that was out of the reach of the poor man and not always obtainable by the rich. Modern down-to-date invention, together with a little "gumption" on the part of the consumer, has placed this dish within the reach of all. As a source of profit no other part of the poultry business offers so great a return as capons. It is safe to figure that they will always bring twice as much per pound as hens. They will average about twice as heavy, just as the finished steer will outweigh and outsell the cow.

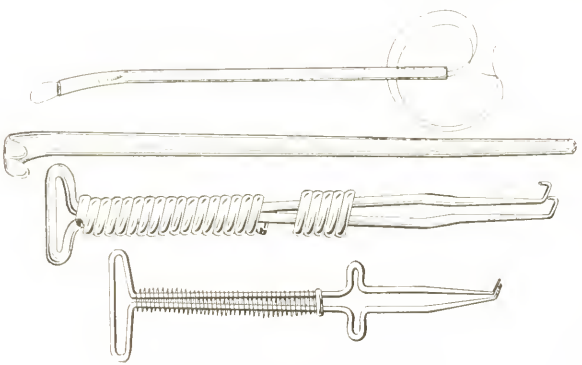
As a means of recreation "caponizing" presents a subject full of interest and running over with possibilities. Bankers, teachers, clerks, and business men in all lines of work get great enjoyment from a few capons. The operation is very interesting, requiring a certain amount of skill. But it is soon learned and easily performed. After the operation comes the pleasure of watching the capons grow and develop. Later there is the pleasure of feasting on their sweet, juicy flesh. In addition there is the satisfying knowledge that the bird is pure and wholesome, and in the proper condition.

Children especially take great interest in the operation and in watching the birds develop. Boys or girls of over 10 years being very quick to get the hang of the operation and soon become expert at it. Note the picture of Helen Benoy. Helen learned the operation herself, practicing first on a dead bird, one that had just been killed to eat. The season just passed Helen worked on many birds, and quit the season without the loss of a single one. The picture is from an actual photo without retouching in any way. Taken by Ocie Sartin while Helen was operating on a live bird. At the time the picture was taken Helen was only 10 years old. You will note that she is using a set of Automatic Safety tools; these are the kind of tools that make real capons.

CHAPTER IV.

CAPON TOOLS, ANCIENT, MEDIAEVAL AND MODERN

In some of the oldest writings in details of ancient feasts we find capons mentioned in unmistakable terms. Just who, when or where the art was first practiced can only be surmised. By letting our imagination have a little play, is it not reasonable to suppost that Father Adam, in the Garden of Eden, first observed the good effects upon other animals of his and Eve's food supply. Consulting together upon this subject, they decided that their happiness would not be complete without some capons, with which to make their feasts complete. Proceeding along this line, they dressed a fowl to locate the parts to be removed. It would then be easy for them to see that these organs could be reached by simply separating and spreading the last two ribs. This accomplished, the organs were no doubt secured in the loop of some fibrous substance, or perhaps a coarse hair, and gradually twisted out. Coming on down to the Middle Ages, our information becomes more definite, the indications pointing to China as the place where we get our first real knowledge of capon tools. At this time some improvements were noted. The ribs were spread apart with a piece of fish or whale bone, a horse hair was doubled and passed through a hollow tube of some kind, perhaps six inches long and slightly smaller than a lead pecil. This tube may have been a bone from a goose wing, or a small crane's wing, or possibly a small joint of bamboo. The double end of the hair



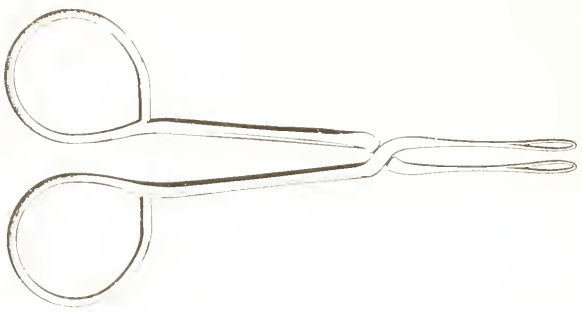
Some Old Style Out-of-Date Testicle Removers.

formed a loop at one end of the tube, and the free ends protruding at the other, the loop was inserted in the bird, with the organ to be removed inside the loop. The tube was then held still with one hand and the two ends of the hair sawed back and forth until the organ dropped off, when it was secured in some manner and removed. A little later on in an effort to get a testicle remover

that would retain that organ in its grasp and bring it out at one operation, the split spoon or scoop was devised. This tool resembles somewhat a small spoon, with the bowl bent at right angles after the manner of a claw-hammer. The organ to be removed was secured in the bowl of the spoon. With the cords in the slit, the tool was then turned round and round, like you would turn a thread to twist it, until the cords were twisted off, usually at the point where they pass through the slit. In many instances a part of the testicle itself was twisted off and drawn back into the bird, resulting in so many slips that this style of tool never became popular.

In more modern times the inventors, as a rule, seemed to be unable to get away from these two forms of tools so far as the testicle remover was concerned. As a matter of fact, very little if any improvement was made on the tools as handed down by the Chinese, a common coil spring with the ends bent down being used to hold the ribs apart in place of the whalebone. In some instances a fine wire was used instead of a hair. A small spoon-shaped piece of metal was fastened to the old type tube to catch the organ after it was sawed off. But no provisions were made in any of them to remove the cords and membranes, which were the real cause of so many slips. The split spoon, or scoop, was worked on and several attempts were made to improve it, but it never reached a state of perfection so that a patent could be obtained on it. The two halves of the bowl were cut into, hinged and sharpened like a pair of scissors. They were so constructed that when the testicle was secured between them, the two parts of the tool were brought together and the organ clipped off. At first glance this tool would look to be an improvement, but such is not the case. Its failure was due to the fact that you could not cut the cord at any point except right up against the testicle, on account of having to lift that organ with the cutting edges before they could be brought together without also cutting the spermatic artery. If that artery is cut the bird will bleed to death before he can be turned loose. The testicle being soft like jelly, a part of it was sometimes drawn down between the cutting edges and clipped off, always resulting in an undesirable slip. Between these two dangers it is almost impossible to get a real capon with the clipping type of tool. Several attempts were made with tools constructed on the forceps plan, but all of these were cumbersome, awkward and hard to use, as well as being very expensive, selling at prices too high to justify the outlay. The first real improvement in a testicle remover that has appeared in modern times was illustrated in *Poultry Culture*, under date of June 10th, 1910, in an article written for that paper by George Benoy, of Cedar Vale, Kan. This remover was of the forceps type, made, so the article says, from two pieces of pitchfork tines, the grasping ends being flattened out and shaped on the order of a small spoon, the inside of each spoon being cut out, leaving a narrow rim forming two hollow loops. The testicle was grasped between the two loops, a clear view of the work being obtained through

them at all times. The testicle was secured between the loops, the cords grasped by their narrow rims. The organ was then turned over a few times, twisting the cords and membranes together, which were then stretched out for perhaps an inch and cut off with a thin, narrow-bladed knife close up to the bird's back, the entire organs, membranes and cords being taken out. Undoubtedly this tool was a great success. However, it had to be made



As Illustrated in Poultry Culture. The First Real Improvement in a Testicle Remover.

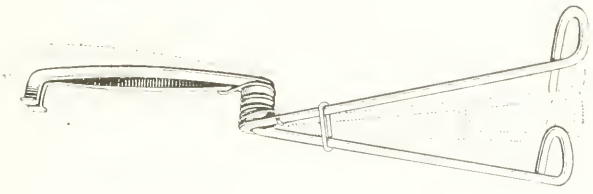
from very fine steel, with a jewelryman's hinge in the joint, and altogether it was expensive to make, which no doubt kept it from becoming popular. Mr. Benoy states that the chief objection to this tool, besides the price, was that the hinge could not be made tight enough to keep the grasping ends in line. It being three inches from the grasping points to the rivet in the hinge, in so delicate a tool the points would wobble a trifle, in some instances sufficient to cause the death of the fowl being operated on. In order to take up this play and make a hinge that would absolutely keep the grasping points in line, it was seen that the joint would have to have more width; that is, be more in proportion to the length of the grasping arms. Working with this object in view, Mr. Benoy hit upon the idea of a coil spring joint that would take up any play automatically, resulting in the testicle remover covered under the Benoy & Loshbough patent and sold the season of 1911 in the Dingley Dell Caponizing Set. This was a mighty good instrument and gave excellent satisfaction, very few slips developing where it was used, even in the hands of the novice. This tool was sent out adjusted to half a hair width. The grasping edges were dovetailed, or beveled outward, so that it was almost impossible to grasp the artery. In fact, this was a practical, safe tool to use.

Later this tool was improved, a spring added that held it shut when the organ was secured, and this feature patented under separate patent. As a testicle remover this placed this tool in a class by itself, nothing else being at all like it.

Not content with the success of this excellent instrument, Mr. Benoy kept at it. He said there seemed to be a big demand for a testicle remover that was a reliable tool and could be sold for a little money, without being a cheap article. Working with

that idea in view, he produced and patented the Automatic Testicle Remover. This little instrument is the best thing in the way of a testicle remover that has been constructed up to date. It is made from spring steel wire and is very light. To use it, a slight pressure of the hand to cause it to open is all that is required. It stays open of its own accord, and shuts automatically when the release is touched with the thumb, the safety clutch preventing it from shutting with a snap. It would seem that it is impossible to make a better testicle remover than this one. Low cost price, automatic action, safety clutch, and certainty of results. There have been numerous attempts to improve the testicle removers by different parties at various times, but very little was ever attempted with the "spreader," the tool for holding the ribs apart while the operation is performed. Many operators and so-called experts were content to use the old method of holding them apart with a piece of whalebone. Most of the patent sets were sent out with common coil spring spreaders. If chickens' ribs were all alike and a helper always reads, this style of spreader would not have been so bad. However, some are easy and some are hard to spread; there was no way of adjusting the coil spring spreader. In a tender bird it would break the rib, and perhaps in the very next one it would fail to open them wide enough. Then it would not stay in position unless some one held it.

After perfecting the testicle removers, Mr. Benoy invented and secured patents on two different "spreaders," which are entirely different in action and principle. They are radically different from any other spreaders ever offered the public before. Personally we prefer the one called "The Humane Spreader." This tool is constructed to fit the bird. It stays where it is put



The Humane Spreader.

without being held. Its actions are entirely under the control of the operator. It opens by means of a slide, stopping at any desired point. The other spreader referred to is known as the "Automatic Spreader," and as its name indicates it works automatically. It has the advantage over any other style of spreader on account that it may be used with one hand. It stays in position and is very easy to use. The principle difference between these two spreaders is largely a matter of personal choice, as both are good, either one far in advance of any spreader that we have ever seen.

CHAPTER V.

PREPARING TO CAPONIZE.

The first thing necessary, of course, is a bird of the right degree of development and in the proper condition. The right stage of development is as important as the condition, either of these two points not right will cause a large per cent of failures. Many people ask how old should the birds be, or how much should they weigh, when they are right to caponize. How old they should be or how large they are is "wide of the mark;" what they really should know is the proper state of development. This stage of the bird's growth is hard to explain so that all will understand alike. Different breeds and different flocks of the same breed vary as to the time and manner of their development. No set rules can be given that would be just right in every instance. The proper time to caponize is "just before the bird reaches sexual maturity." Generally speaking, when the birds reach one pound and a half to two pounds in weight. Leghorns and all small breeds should be worked on smaller even that that, as they develop the generative organs much sooner than the larger breeds. All fowls of early spring hatches develop sexually much sooner than those of summer or fall hatches. For that reason the early hatched ones cannot be let run so long as the later hatched birds. "It always sounds bad" to try to explain the proper time to caponize on paper, yet a very little practice will show you when they are just right. Once you get the right idea, it will be easy to tell the ones that are "just right," by the look of the fowl. The main thing is to start, "get at it," the rest will come to you all right. A little practice and you are an expert. You will find the ones that are just right, in a variety of different sizes and ages. The essential requirement is to have the testicle and its attachments in just the right state of development.

These organs should be just about the size of a common navy bean; in no case larger. Slightly smaller, preferred. After you are in practice, the work may be done where the testicles are no larger than plump grains of wheat. They should be about the same shape and color as a nice bright plump grain of soft winter wheat. The expert will get the best possible results where the organs are in this stage of development. The organs should be a little larger for the beginner as they can be seen to better advantage. With old-fashioned clumsy tools, it was of course, impossible to do the work, where the organs were so small. There was not room enough inside the bird to use the old tools. With the modern, automatic tools, it is possible and much better to operate on small birds. The picture shows a Barred Rock Cockerel, in just the right stage of development.

By not having the birds "just right," has caused many failures. I should say that there was about three weeks in the

life of each male bird when he is just right to caponize. Before that period, he is too small and afterwards, he is too much developed. Of course, it is understood that the operation can be, and is performed on birds of all sizes and ages with success, in so far as the operation is concerned. A fowl that is fully developed, sexually, at the time he is caponized, never becomes a capon. He is simply a stag, the same as where a bull or boar is operated on. He will only sell as "a stag," with the exception that a bird of this kind is called "a slip." In reality, a stag or proud male. After a cockerel begins to crow and his head and comb reddens up he is too far advanced to ever make a capon.

The Photo Shows Mrs. George Benoy and One of Her Barred Rock Cockerels "Just Right to Caponize."

They must be worked on before they get that far along, if good results are to be expected.

Next to having the birds in the right stage of development, comes the condition. It is possible for the expert to operate on

them in most any kind of condition. Yet it is very poor judgment for him to attempt it unless they are right. The birds should be growing and in thriving state of health. As the organs to be removed are inside the bird, it will be easy to understand that if the bird is full of feed, his inside fixings will be puffed up and expanded. Taking up all the room and shutting out the light so that the organ to be removed cannot be found or removed for lack of room. For this reason, "it is very important" that the birds to be caponized be confined to a small yard or coop and not allowed anything to eat for at least twenty-four hours, just before the operation is to be performed. It takes nature about that long to exhaust the food supply that the bird usually has on hand.

Assuming that the birds are growing and healthy, the rule for condition should be: "Confine the birds to be caponized on the morning of the day before you intend to operate." Be sure they do not have anything to eat. A little water may be given the first morning of their confinement and operate the next morning. Or any time on the next day after they were shut up. For the beginner a good light is necessary, right out in the sun will be best. You can then see the inner works of the birds to perfection. The testicles occupy about the same position in a bird that the kidneys do in a hog or rabbit. No danger of getting the wrong organs, as the testicles are the only yellow colored objects you will see in the bird. If the bird is in good health the testicles will be yellow and shaped like a grain of wheat, or slightly longer, the other parts of the bird are red or nearly so. The testicles are always yellow or whitish yellow except in a diseased bird when they sometimes become black or partly so.

CHAPTER VI.

THE PROPER TOOLS.

After you have the birds just right, comes the tools. Success will depend on their construction and working principles as much as on the bird and its condition. With the proper tools and the birds right, anyone can make a capon. Tools that work with a hair fine wire or that are constructed on the split-scoop principle and the ones that have clipping attachments are no good. A large per cent of loss by death and slips may be expected where they are used. The reason for this loss is clear, when it is understood that tools of the above character must come in actual contact with the testicle itself before the tool can be manipulated in an effective manner. This being the case, it of course follows, that the testicle attachments must be severed right up against that organ. In many instances a small part of the testicle is left in the bird, resulting in "a slip" every time. Where that style of tools are used the cord membranes and attachments are all left in the bird. And these are very apt to produce "a slip."

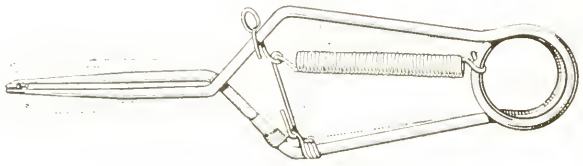
A real successful testicle remover must be so constructed that it will open up wide enough to pass entirely over the testicle and grasp the cords and membranes that hold it in place. The tool must then retain that grasp without letting the slightest particle escape. As the testicle lies very close to the spermatic artery and sometimes attached to it, any one will understand, "That any clipping contrivance with a sharp cutting edge" is apt to sever this artery, resulting in the death of the bird. The successful remover must be beveled outward like a dove's tail and fit at the connecting edges like a split hair. This will then permit of the grasping members being worked down between the spermatic artery and testicle without danger of injuring either.

The instrument then has a grasp on the connecting cords and membranes with the testicle inside its loops. The cords and attachment may then be gradually stretched out away from the artery and the bird's back, and cut off with a thin, sharp, narrow-bladed knife or small curved blunt shears. Handled in this way there is no danger of killing the bird. It does not seem to hurt them in the least at this time, and as the tool is turned over several times before cutting, the cords are twisted together like a string, thus stopping the blood and the bird will not bleed at all, if properly done.

The cords, membranes and attachments are all taken out as well as the testicles, so there cannot be any slips develop, because the operation is a clean one.

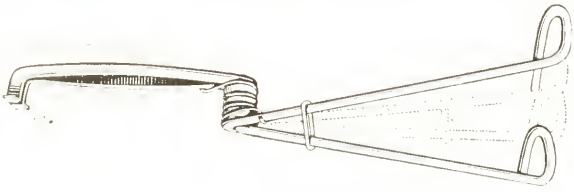
These desirable features are found in but two removers, one of which is called the Automatic Safety Testicle Remover, the other is known as the Dingley Dell Testicle Remover.

Next in importance to the testicle remover, comes the spreader, used for holding the ribs apart, while the operation is performed. Almost any kind of spreader can be used with fair success. The most common kind in use heretofore is the ordinary coil spring spreader. It is made of spring wire and sells for twenty-five to fifty cents, or can be made from an old piece of bed-spring. The trouble with this kind of spreader is, that no two birds will present the same amount of resistance, the spring may be strong enough to break the ribs of one bird and not strong enough to open the next one. There is no way to



The Automatic Safety Testicle Remover. Patented.

regulate it. It is hard to insert into the bird and will not stay in place without some one to hold it. At the same time, it can be used successfully, and has been for many years. Principally on account of its cheapness and the lack of anything better. The "Humane Spreader," which Mr. Benoy recently patented and afterwards disposed of to The Capon Tool Co. of Cedar Vale, Kansas, is far and away ahead of anything else we have ever seen in the way of a spreader. Note the illustration.



Humane Spreader.

The "Humane Spreader" is constructed to fit the bird's body. It is used from the same side that the operator works on. The coil spring hinge fits up in the bird's thigh, the handles resting on the operating table, thus holding it firmly in position. This spreader closes automatically, making it easy to insert between the ribs. To spread the cut, press the handles together with the thumb and fore finger, the slide drops back by gravity as the two handles come together, holding the tool spread at any desired width, only pressure enough is used to open the ribs just right, no unnecessary pain is caused the bird. A coil spring spreader keeps up a steady pressure on the bird all the time, resulting in much pain.

We like this spreader much the best of any we have ever used. It is very convenient, affords plenty of room to work, and has no complicated parts to get out of order. We have tried

other spreaders, and most of them work all right, but we believe the "Humane Spreader" presents many advantages, not found in any other spreader. The spreader is the tool that gives you the view of the work to be performed; it is desirable that a good one be used; none of them are expensive; we suggest that you use the best.

Aside from the testicle remover and spreader, the rest of the equipment is not so important. It will be necessary to have some kind of a knife. A good pocket knife is the best we have ever tried. It should have a small blade that will hold a thin sharp edge. The handle of a pocket knife affords a good grip and we like them much better than the ones that are usually sent out with caponizing sets. You will have to have a tearing hook, and probe, we like them combined, probe on one end and hook on the other. The hook is for tearing the thin membrane, or tissue that cover the intestines, and obstructs the view when the bird is first opened up with the spreaders. The tissue is too thin to be cut and must be torn, it is about like wet tissue paper. The probe is not used much, but once in awhile it will come in handy to press the intestines back with, in case they are a little too full and obstruct the view.

Some sort of operating table and means of fastening the birds will also be required. An empty barrel turned bottom side up, makes a good table and is the right height. A brick broken in two and each half tied to a cord about three feet long, with a hook attached to the free end, makes a good way to fasten the bird. The hooks are to pass over the string, when it is wound around the bird's legs or wings and saves tying a knot each time.

CHAPTER VII.

THE OPERATION.

Turn an empty barrel bottom side up to use for an operating table. It is the right height and can't be beat for the purpose. Secure two pieces of cord, about three feet long with a hook in one end of each. Tie a half brick to the other end of each cord and you are ready to proceed. Place the cockerel on the top of the barrel right side up. Wrap one of the cords twice around his legs and fasten with the hook. Wrap the other cord around his wings at second joint and fasten same

Position on Barrel, Properly Fastened for the Operation

as the other one, stretch him out on top of the barrel as far as possible, let the weights hang down on each side of the barrel as shown in the cut.

Now pluck a few feathers from just in front of the hip joint. These are just ready to moult, anyway, and will come

out easily.) Stand on the front side of the bird so that the breast is toward you. Locate the last two ribs with the forefinger of the right hand, place the small blade of a sharp knife between them. (See cut.) Hold it there with a firm, steady

Making the Cut Press Down Hard. Be Sure the Knife Point Goes Through Between the Ribs.

pressure, draw it forward, pressing down hard all the time.

Make the Cut One Inch Long. If any Blood Should Appear, Pause a Moment and Wipe it up With a Bit of Cotton.

Be sure the blade passes through, entirely separating the ribs when it first starts to move at that point. Then make the cut about one inch long. (See the illustration.) The idea is to separate the ribs without cutting any muscles and if the blade passes entirely through at the first attempt this will be accomplished and no bleeding will follow. It will be necessary to press down very hard on the knife, as that is important. The pressure separate the ribs without cutting the muscles, thereby preventing any blood from following.

The cut made, insert the spreader and open the wound so that you can see to work. (See cut showing spreader in posi-

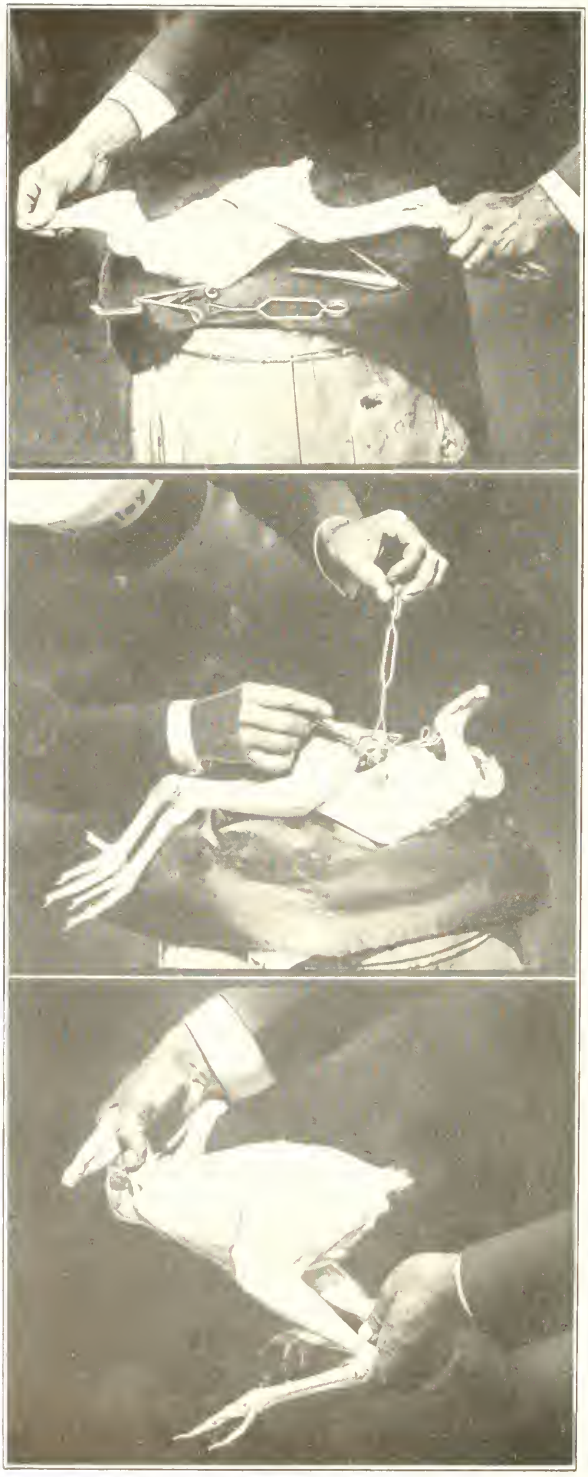
Specially Injected, Showing the Method of Using the Tearing Hook. Note the Testicle in Plain View Under the Thin Film or Tissue Covering. Actual Photo Without Faking in Any Way.

tion.) The first thing that you will see is a thin skin or membrane covering the intestines. With the tearing hook make a small opening in this, which will bring the upper testicle into view, a small yellowish object about the size of a navy bean, lying up against the backbone, or nearly so, with a blue artery just back of it and sometimes attached to it. Care must be taken not to cut or tear this artery, or the bird is a dead one. Insert the testicle remover with the loops held tightly together, pushing the intestines back and out of the way when necessary, with them. You will be able to see through the loops when you have them in the right place. Then open the instrument and work the loops over the testicle, allowing it to shut gradually with the testicle inside the loops. Then turn the tool half round, and back once or twice, so as to loosen the organ as much as possible. Be sure you have the grasping parts of the tool in the right position and then twist the testicle around a few times (like you would to twist a cord or string), drawing the parts outward all the time so as to stretch the cords out for about an inch. Then reach in with the small knife blade and cut the twisted cords and membranes off about half way be-

tween the testicle and where they attach to the bird. (See illustration, cutting the testicle off.) Remove the spreader, turn the bird over and repeat the operation on the other side, proceeding as before. It is possible to get both testicles from the same side, but it is harder and much more dangerous to do; and the

Cutting the Testicle Off. Note the Point of the Knife Under the Organ. From an Actual Photo.

bird recovers quicker where it is opened up on both sides. Do not sew up the cut. When the capon gets on his feet the cut in the skin will be up under his wing and not over the ribs at all. (See illustration, three dead birds showing muscles.)



The Above Three Picture Are From Photos of the Same Bird Dressed and Skinned in Order to Show the Muscles as They Actually Are. Note the First Picture Shows the Bird Stretched Out and the Ribs Separated. No Muscle Cut. The Next One Shows Two Ribs Laid Back to Give a View of the Cords and the Way to Cut Them. The Last is the Same Bird After the Testicle Was Removed, Showing How the Muscles Cover the Cut After the Bird Gets on His Feet

CHAPTER VIII.

CARE AFTER THE OPERATION.

They will be ready for their feed as soon as turned loose, but should be watered first. Feed lightly of whatever they are accustomed to. Be sure to separate them so that not over eight or ten will go to roost in any one box or coop, as where there is a larger number together they will crowd and some will smother. After the second night following the operation they will be all right and may then be safely turned together. In three to four days after the operation some of the capon may develop wind puffs. This is caused by the cut healing too fast. It is not serious, only air or wind under the skin which cannot escape. The remedy is to make an opening in the skin so as to let it escape. A pin or needle will not make large enough opening; it is best to use a pair of scissors and cut out a small pinch of skin. This is just the outer skin of the bird and is devoid of feeling, so does not cause the fowl any suffering. This will not be necessary in very many birds, but once in a while it will occur. More often in birds where the operation is performed from one side only. In three or four days after the operation, the capons may be allowed the free run of the place. They are great rustlers, more like a hen in actions and appearance than anything else. Yet they are different from all other feathered creatures taking on fat in surprising amounts in proportion to the feed consumed. They will begin to heavy down and show that they are capons when about six months old. The American breeds will, if crowded along, weigh from ten to fifteen pounds when they are ten months of age. The operation may be performed at any time in any month of the year if the birds can be found that are right.

We usually caponize the late fall chickens to use for foster mothers to take care of the early spring hatched chicks. Each winter we carry over about thirty to be used for that purpose. These fellows will then make fifteen-pound capons for the following holiday season. They will command the very top prices, as the more they weigh the more they are worth per pound.

PROPER FEED FOR CAPONS.

Feed the same as other poultry. They will do better, of course, on free range, but this is not essential. They are not subject to disease like other poultry, hence stand confinement well. Plenty of green feed is a big help. It makes them thrifty, for this purpose sowed oats, wheat or rye is best, with alfalfa, just about as good. Sprouted oats are excellent. The main feed, however, should be CORN—good yellow corn—all

they can be induced to eat all the time. That is the proper way to feed it to capons for profit. Feed the other things mentioned in order to whet their appetites so they will eat more corn. Alfalfa meal wet up with milk, sour or sweet, is one of the best growing feeds we have ever tried. The last two weeks before marketing or butchering, confine them to a small yard and feed corn chop soaked in milk. Feed about four times a day, all that they can be coaxed to clean up good. This method will plump out the carcass and give that rich milk feed flavor so much in demand.

CHAPTER IX.

MARKETING.

Dealers will tell you that capons are in season or out of season, depending on the time of year that the inquiry is made. Capons are, like strawberries, good at any time of the year that you can get them. It takes capons from nine months to a year to mature. As chickens and other fowls are mostly hatched in the spring months, they will mature or get ripe during February, March and April, depending on the time that they were hatched. As there is no profit in holding them over during the summer months, or after they have become fully matured, it as a matter of course follows that they must be marketed during these three months; hence the so-called season. As incubators come into more general use and chicks are hatched at all seasons of the year, it may be possible to secure capons at all times. In selling capons on the open market to local produce dealers if the best prices are expected, the seller must be able to furnish enough capons at one time and properly finished, to at least fill one crate. Any fair-minded person can readily see that a dealer can not handle one or two capons so as to make a profit, as they do not sell well in mixed lots, generally going at hen prices. If you are growing them and expect to sell on the open market, always arrange to have at least two dozen to market together. The more you have the better prices you will be able to obtain. Dealers will bid much higher where there is enough birds to make it interesting.

Where several neighbors can arrange to club together and have their capons ready at the same time, and all sell together, much better prices can be realized. Small capons do not sell well, as they must possess size in order to show that they are real capons. The little ones look too much like small roosters. To bring top prices capons should weigh over eight pounds each. In this respect they are no different from other animals, as it is pretty well understood that runty, under-sized steers or hogs do not command the best prices. Quality counts in capons as well as in all other animals. Pure bred fowls show up their quality and run much more evenly in all market requirements than common or mixed breeds, therefore it is desirable to use standard or pure bred fowls for capons. Chickens and ducks make the best capons for profit. Turkeys and geese may be worked on, but have to be kept about two years to become fully matured, therefore are not so popular for caponizing. Barred Plymouth Rock chickens are perhaps the best for making capons. Their long back gives plenty of room to do the work. Their large size, yellow skin and legs, together with their quick-growing qualities, makes them very desirable as capons. The fact that they are great winter layers makes it possible to get fertile

eggs to incubate very early in the season. The greatest point in favor of Barred Rocks for capons is due to the fact that you can tell the males much sooner than in any other breed of fowls. In the Barred Rocks the males can be told as soon as hatched, as they are always much lighter in color than the females. In some breeds of chickens, especially the solid colored birds, it is very hard to tell the males soon enough to make good capons. Outside of the facts mentioned any breed of fowls will make good capons.

Leghorns and the small breeds make good mothers and furnish capons with that gamey flavor so much favored by certain classes. It is well to remember that it will pay to have a few capons whether you ever sell one or not. You cannot afford to be without them for your own use. The fact that they bring twice as much as any other class of poultry need not be considered. The point is they are the best eating on earth. Everyone that has chickens at all should have some capons, especially when you can have them without any extra expense. One capon will more than pay for the tools to do it with. Dressed capons bring the highest price. In dressing, it must be done in a way to show that it is a capon. Otherwise the purchaser could not tell for sure what it was; he might think it only a rooster. In order that there be no mistake on this point, custom and fashion long established has laid down certain rules that must be followed in dressing capons for the market.

One requirement is that the capons arrive in as nearly whole condition as possible. It is desirable that they be drawn, in fact some state laws require it. In order to draw a fowl without mutilating the carcass, it is necessary that the bird be not allowed anything to eat for at least twenty-four hours before they are killed. Confined for that length of time without anything to eat the crop and intestines will become entirely empty. This makes these organs much smaller in size, as well as toughening them, thus permitting them to be taken out with ease.

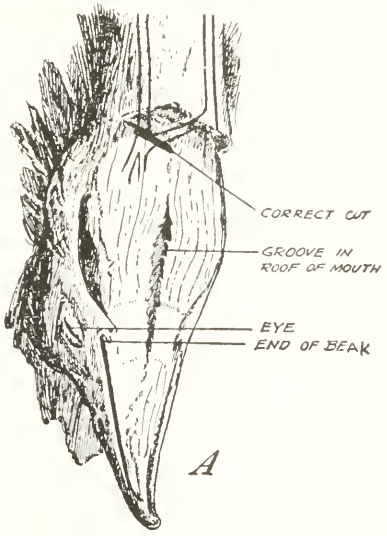
A capon's comb and wattles never grow after the operation, and the real capon always has a pale look about the head, only the slips will redden up. In the real capon the head remains very small; for these reasons the real capon must always have the head left on, together with a few neck feathers. That is his trademark, so to speak. On a capon the tail feathers and coverlets are very long and abundant, for that reason they must be left on. And just to give the carcass a finished look the feathers on the two outer joints of the wings are also left. The feet are left on and in some places where the market requires it a ring of feathers are left around each leg just above the knee joint.

Always dry pick your capon. Do not scald, as this would spoil the keeping qualities of the bird; besides it would ruin the feathers. Capon feathers are valuable. They will more than

pay for the dressing. They sell next to duck and geese feathers. All of the coarse hard feathers are left on the bird, only the soft, downy ones being plucked.

As it is necessary for the capon head to remain on the car-

The Proper Way to Make the Stick. The Drawing Shows Where to Find the Arteries to Cut.



cass the only practical way to kill him will be to stick inside the mouth. As there are two veins that join just under the skin

in the back part of the mouth this is easy done, and much more humane than chopping their heads off, anyway. The small blade of an ordinary pocket knife will be all that is required. (See cut for proper way to do it.) To make the stick, hang the capon up by his feet, as he will bleed out much quicker and cleaner in this position and be ready to pick as soon as properly stuck. Reach the blade of the knife well back in his mouth, sharp edge up, and sever the veins as shown in the illustration. Then stick the point of the knife through the roof of the bird's mouth, so that the point will enter the brain. This will cause him to loose all feeling and will cause the feathers to loosen. After he is properly stuck you can pluck the feathers with ease; they will almost come out of their own

(Photo by Deering.)
Just Finished, Properly Dressed. Weight Twenty Pounds, dressed Ten Pounds Each, Worth Twenty-five Cents per Pound, or Five Dollars for the Pair.

accord after you learn to make the stick just right. It is a good scheme to have a small weight attached to a small hook to hang in his lower bill while you are picking. This will hold him still and prevent swinging around. The bird properly plucked, all pin feathers and down having been removed, due care being taken not to tear or bruise the skin, the bird is ready to draw. It is best to have a table handy for this purpose. Lay the carcass on its back and cut around the vent. A great deal of fat will be found at this point, attached to the

intestines; as you pull them out push the fat back into the bird. This fat will "bug out" at the opening when the bird is finished and give it a very rich, tempting appearance. When the end of the intestine is reached run the thumb and forefinger up inside the bird as far as possible and break them off, leaving everything else inside the bird. The crop is perfectly empty and clean, hence it is left in, as it could not be removed without spoiling the looks of the carcass. Now wash him very thoroughly; be sure to get the feet and head clean; sponge the breast very carefully. Hang up by the feet and allow to cool over night, then they will be ready to pack for shipment. Line a box or barrel with nice clean white paper and put the birds in breast down. If it is warm weather, put in plenty of ice in top and bottom.

The market for capons is unlimited. The writer had thought of making up a list of firms that are regular buyers of capons in different sections of the country. In fact, we started to make up the list, but found that there were so many of these firms that it would be impossible to get them into a work of this character. If it so happens that you are in a section where there is not a ready market for capons just drop a line to The Capon Man, Cedar Vale, Kan., and enclose a stamp for reply. You will then be furnished free of charge the address of some reliable buyer of capons in your immediate section, no matter what part of America you may reside in.

The Capon Tool Company

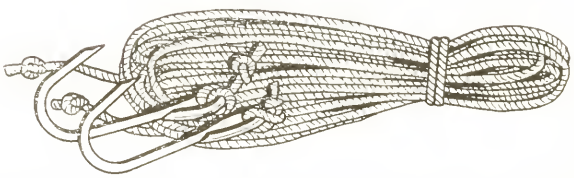
Cedar Vale, Kansas

We have purchased the Benoy-Loshbough patent covering their testicle remover together with the business and their good will. We have also secured control of several other patents either issued or now pending and installed the necessary equipment to manufacture these tools in the best possible manner.

Our workmen are expert machinists and we require that each one be entirely familiar with the art of caponizing. Every person that works for The Capon Tool Company must demonstrate to our satisfaction that they can make a capon before they enter our service. This insures satisfactory work and a perfect tool, as the workman understands exactly what is required of his product.

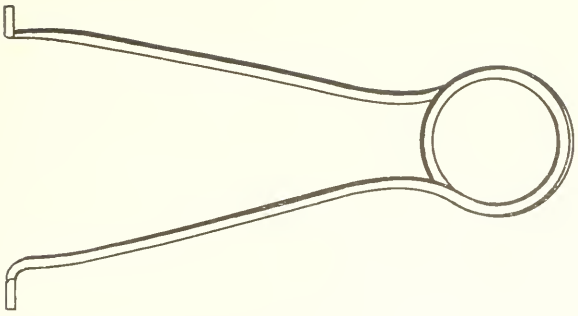
We guarantee our tools to be the best made for the purpose, and should any part prove defective at any time we will replace it free of charge; *provided*, the old tool is returned to us. We believe that we have the best tools for making capons that have ever been put on the market and we are willing to demonstrate that point to your entire satisfaction. You to be the judge.

Favor us with an order and it will receive prompt and careful attention. Remit by Postoffice Money Order, Bank Draft or Express Money Order. Please do not send checks as we have to pay exchange on them. We guarantee the tools to be satisfactory to you or your money back. Will send them C. O. D. if you prefer, subject to examination.



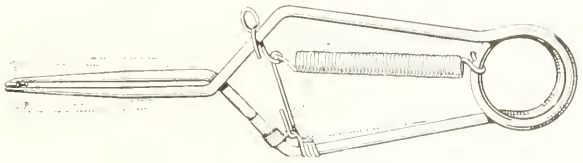
No. 1. Hooks and cords for fastening the fowl during the operation. The hooks are for fastening the cords about the fowls legs and wings and saves tieing a knot each time.
Price, postpaid 15c

No. 2. Operating knife for separating the ribs and removing the testicles. Also an excellent knife for killing all kinds of poultry for market. Made from the best grade of spring steel, will hold a razor edge. Finished in best grade of nickel.
Price, postpaid. 25c



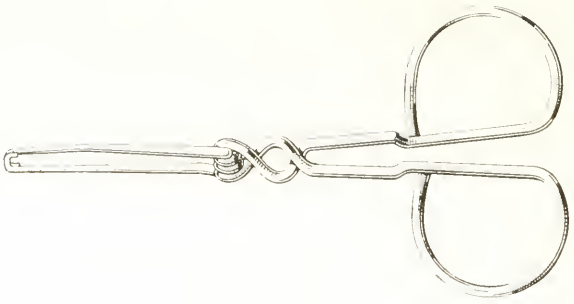
No. 3. Common Spring Spreader. Made from the best grade of spring steel. Adjusted to spread birds of one pound and half to two pounds in weight. Can be regulated as to strength by bending the arms of the spring to suit. Finished in polished nickle.
Price, postpaid. 25c

No. 4. Combined Hook and Probe. The sharp hook end for making the opening in the tissue covering the intestines so that the testicles may be plainly seen. The flat probe end for pushing the intestines back in case it is necessary, so as to have a clear view of the work to be done. This is a mighty handy instrument to use in dressing any kind of a wound. Cotton may be wrapped about the hook end for wiping up blood or for cleaning an old sore. Farmers will find this instrument especially useful in removing screw worms from barb wire cuts. Made from the best grade of open hearth steel, heavily plated and polished.
Price, postpaid. 25c



Patented allowed December, 1911

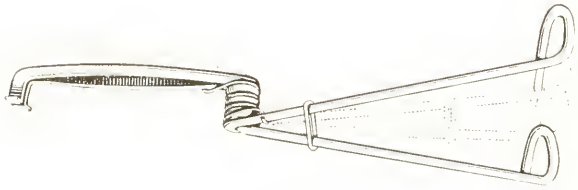
No. 5. Automatic Safety Testicle Remover. All that is required to open this instrument is a slight pressure or squeeze of the hand. It locks open of its own accord. To close it push the slide forward with the thumb. It locks shut. The safety clutch allowing it to close gradually and holding it securely closed retaining every thing inside the loops absolutely secure until released by the hand. The grasping loops are ground out on an emery wheel beveled or dove tailed outward so as not to grasp anything from the outside. Adjusted by hand to half a hair width. This tool will not hold to or injure any part of the bird unless it shows inside the loops where it may be plainly seen. This instrument will almost do the work itself after the bird is opened up; all that is required is a slight pressure of the hand and a simple twist of the wrist and the trick is done. Made from special process open hearth steel, finished in the best polished nickle plate.
Price, postpaid. $1.25



Patented September, 1911

No. 6. Improved Dingley Dell Testicle Remover. We guarantee this instrument to be the best testicle remover on the market regardless of price. It opens like a pair of scissors and closes automatically. There is a spring within the hinge that closes the tool and holds it closed, preventing anything that is inside the loops from escaping until released by the operator. The loops are ground out on an emery wheel by hand, are dovetailed outward and adjusted like a split hair. With this remover the operator's hand is well back and does not cast a shadow on the bird, a point not found in any other remover. This tool is light and very easy to use. Is made from the best grade of open hearth steel, heavily nickeled and polished.

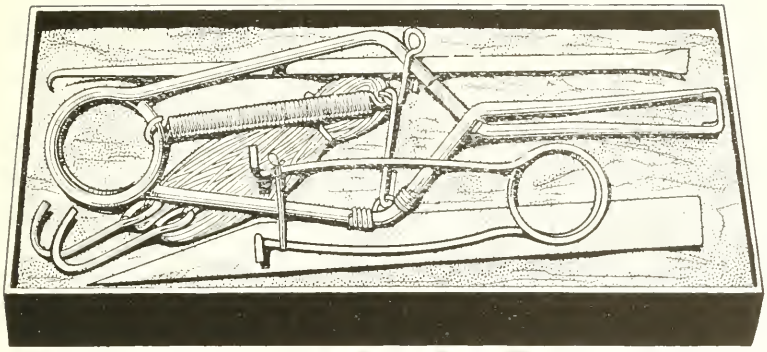
Price, postpaid. $1.50



Patented 1911

No. 7. Humane Spreader. A spreader that fits the bird, stays in position without being held. The coil hinge rests in the bird's thigh and the handles braced V shape on the table prevent it from sliding around and tend to hold the bird steady. The flattened ends of the tools are placed between the last two ribs after the cut is made and the handles brought together until the ribs are spread just the right amount. The slide on the handle drops back by gravity and holds the tool spread at any desired point until released. Made from open hearth and piano steel wire and is self adjusting and closes automatically of its own accord, does not have to be held together while inserting in the wound as the old style spreaders did. This instrument is Humane in its actions and may be used with any style testicle remover. Sold with the understanding that if it fails to give satisfaction it may be returned to us and we will refund your money in full. Finished in nickel and polished.

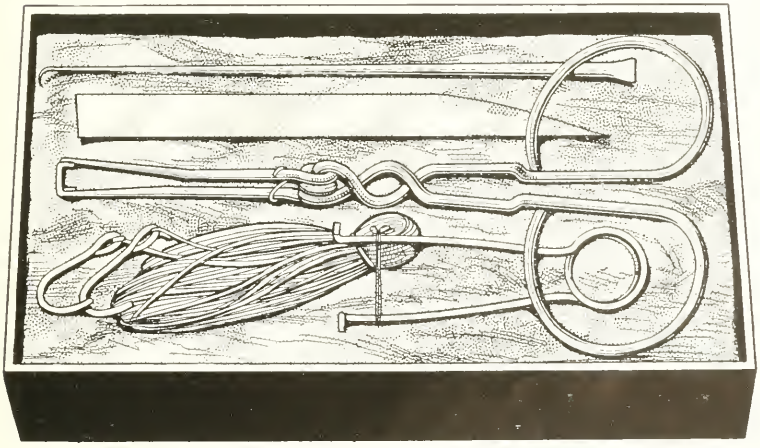
Price, postpaid. $1.00



Patent allowed 1911

No. 8. Safety Caponizing Set. Consists of the Automatic Testicle Remover, combined hook and probe, common coil spring spreader, operating knife and the necessary hooks and cords. Packed in cotton in a neat box with full illustrated directions for performing the operation.

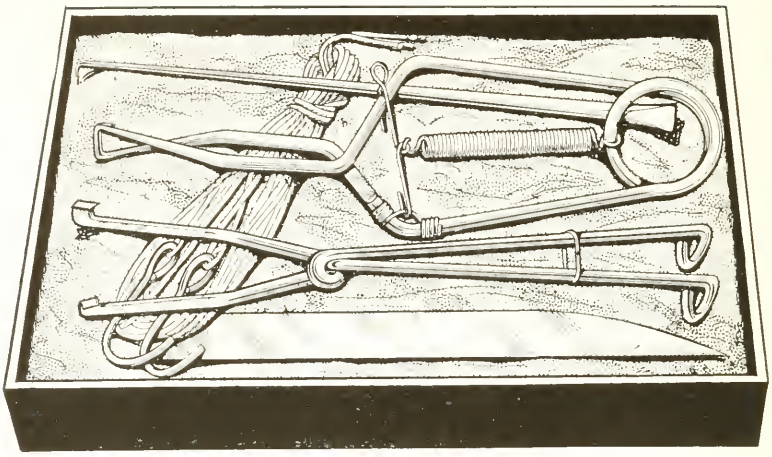
Price, postpaid, per set $1.50



Patented September, 19 1

No. 9. Dingley Dell Caponizing Set. This set contains the Improved Dingley Testicle Remover, combined hook and probe, common coil spring spreader, operating knife and the necessary cords and hooks for securing the bird. Packed in cotton in a neat box and sent postpaid to any address for the price.

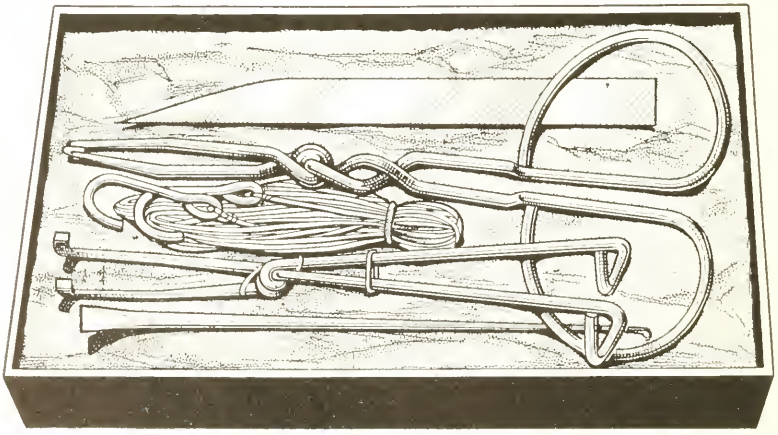
Price, postpaid, per set $2.00



Patent allowed 1911

No. 10. Automatic Safety Caponizing Set. This set is our leader and we are willing to risk our reputation on this set of tools; we especially recommend it to the beginner. In this set we are putting the Automatic Testicle Remover, the Humane Spreader, the Combined Hook and Probe, the Operating Knife, together with the necessary hooks and cords. Packed in a neat box and sent to any address on receipt of price. Full illustrated directions for performing the operation with every set of tools bought of us. As a special inducement to buy this set we are giving free as a premium the great book on capons entitled "Capons and Why," by The Caponman

Price, postpaid, per set, to any address.....$2.50



Patented September, 1911

No. 11. Improved Dingley Dell Caponizing Set. This set contains the Improved Dingley Dell Testicle Remover, the Humane Spreader, the Combined Hook and Probe, the Operating Knife, Cords and Hooks for securing the bird. All packed in cotton in a neat box with illustrated directions for performing the operation. The book "Capons and Why," goes with each of these sets sold at the regular price. We guarantee this set of tools to be the best made for the purpose or your money back, you to be the judge.

Price, postpaid, per set, to any address.....$3.00

Make all drafts and money orders payable to "The Capon Tool Company," Cedar Vale, Kansas. We guarantee all the tools made or sold by us to be entirely satisfactory to the purchaser in every way or your money back. We mean by that, that after you get the tools and try them, if for any reason you cannot use them or do not like them, that you may return them to us in a reasonable time after purchased and we will refund your money in full.

THE CAPON TOOL CO.,
Cedar Vale, Kan.

The Capon Tool Company has hundreds of original letters indorsing their tools in the strongest possible terms, but the lack of space prevents us giving many of them here. We have selected a very few from widely separated sections of the country and print them here because certain points are brought out that we believe will be of interest to our readers. These letters come to us unsolicited and we believe, simply state the facts in the case We omit the names of the tools mentioned in the letters, as we do not wish to knock on our competitors' products. We have the original letters and they are open for inspection at any time by any one.

(Copy of Letter)

ANCON, CANAL ZONE, CENTRAL AMERICA, Jan. 3, 1911.

DEAR SIRS:—I am very much interested in caponizing. I use the —— tools and find them very crude, as you cannot see behind your instrument and cannot see how you are cutting off the testicle at the other end of the instrument. With them everything is just luck, therefore causing a great many slips, and they are worse than nothing, as we all realize. In one of your articles on capons you speak of a forcep with loops that you can see through and which you get hold of the testicle and stretch the cords and adhering membranes until you can reach in and sever them with a thin bladed knife, removing all together. Kindly send me one of those forceps with the loops; that, I believe, will solve the problem. Your article was fine and I congratulate you upon it.

Yours truly,

PETER B. BROWN,
Canal Zone, Panama, Central America.

DAYTON, OHIO, Aug. 23, 1911.

DEAR SIR:—I have yours of recent date in reply to my inquiry in regard to your caponizing tools. I beg to say that I have caponized for some nine years Prof. J. M. Drew of the Minnesota Agricultural College and I learned together, some nine years ago, caponizing sixty one Saturday night by electric light with split spoon and spreaders as our only tools. ——— I have ——— set and ——— farmer set also, an improved canula and ——— special set with the snipper removers; latter is not safe for beginners to use and all of ——— present spreaders are reprehensible, in human affairs. As a hobby of mine (I'm over five counties here this summer), I am teaching likely farmers' sons caponizing. Just began a couple of weeks ago using a split scoop which inclines to slip, as you know, and usually needs following with snips or pinchers. Now, these boys look to me to get them tools, hence my writing you after I had applied to Purdue University, who cited me to you. I must find a set that does not scare my boys for the price. The "special" set made by ——— with the clipping testicle remover isn't safe; their farmer set is fair only, but I hate the spreader. And they won't furnish me the simple flange spreader as they used to. And I am afraid the scoop will leave slips and discourage my boys so now. I enclose ($.....) and if you can send me a set of your tools get it here as soon as you can. I have eleven men awaiting my coming to show them, two being county superintendents, who want to put caponizing into the course of study under the new Ohio law for teaching agriculture. I suggest that you write Indiana's crackerjack poultryman, Otis Crane, of Lebanon, Ind. I visited Crane recently; next day he was

paid twenty dollars by a packing company there to train a crew of men to caponize whom the packer was sending out to caponize free in the packer-farmer territory. Yours truly,

J. W. West.

Farmington, N. M., Aug. 12, 1911.

Dear Sir:—I am very much pleased with the instruments, having found the forceps much superior to hair, wire or knife. The forceps are finer, surer and quicker to work with. Yours truly,

G. W. Sammons, M. D.

Lack of space prevents us printing any more of the letters. We have hundreds similar to above, open for inspection at any time. Favor us with your orders and they will receive prompt and careful attention.

THE CAPON TOOL COMPANY,
Cedar Vale, Kan.

Reference: Cedar Vale National Bank or any business man in Cedar Vale.

Dingley Dell Farm

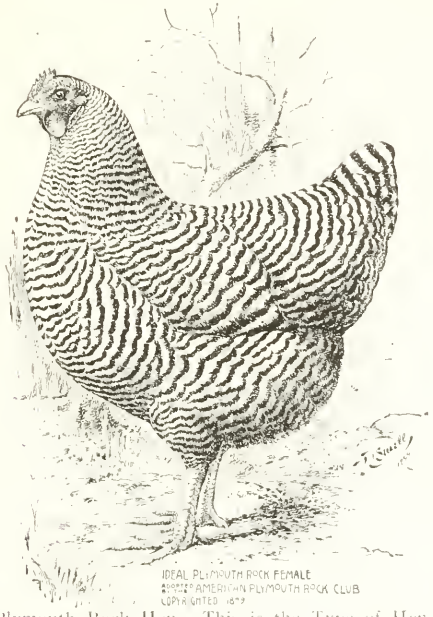
The home of the Celebrated Dingley Dell Strain of Barred Plymouth Rock chickens, the greatest laying strain on earth.

Birds bred and raised on the Dingley Dell Farm have won more premiums at the really great poultry shows of the Central West than

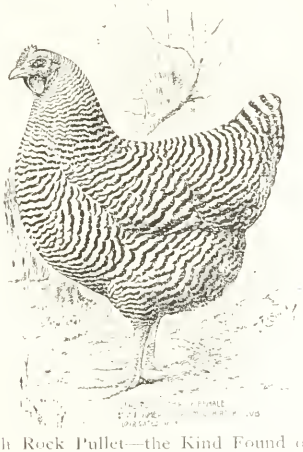
An Ideal Barred Plymouth Rock Cockerel. This is the type of male we use at the Head of Our Exhibition Matings. These Matings Have Made the Dingley Dell Strain Famous.

those from any other one strain. The season of 1910-11 Mr. Benoy exhibited at the Kansas State Show, winning four first prizes and many

minor places; next he shipped an entirely different pen of birds to the Big Four State Intermountain Show at Ogden, Utah, where thirteen thousand people paid admission the first day of the show, winning first, second and third pullet, besides prizes on pen and cockerel. A truly great performance, considering the fifteen hundred mile ship and the hot com-



An Ideal Barred Plymouth Rock Hen. This is the Type of Hen We Are Using in Our Best Exhibition Matings this Season. These Are the Hens that Have Made the Dingley Dell Strain the Real True Winning Bred-to-Lay Birds that They Are.



An Ideal Barred Plymouth Rock Pullet—the Kind Found on the Dingley Dell Farm, Cedar Vale, Kansas.

petition. Following these great shows Mr. Benoy showed next at the Missouri State Show at Kansas City, and then at Independence, Kan., where he made a clean sweep of all the first prizes in a large class of birds, closing the season at Topeka, Kan., at the National Barred Rock Show,

where his winning cockerel was the center of attraction. Few, if any, breeders of Barred Rocks can show as good a record in as many real large shows in as widely separated sections as that established by Mr. Beuoy. His winning record of thirty-nine first prizes in the seasons just past is a record by itself, to say nothing of the specials and minor places that his birds have won.

The Dingley Dell Farm contains one hundred and sixty acres devoted exclusively to raising the best farm chicken on earth. Over two miles of chicken tight fence used in making the yards for the special mating. Exhibition, quality, small, special matings, the rule; only two hundred females kept to use as breeders, and our entire time is devoted to them. The Dingley Dell Farm has been called the ten thousand dollar chicken ranch; in reality it represents a much larger investment. The Dingley Dell Barred Plymouth Rocks are the Bred-to-Lay strain, with the winning habit bred in.

Cockerels, hens and pullets for sale at all times. Show birds, fit to win in any company, a specialty. Good breeding females at two dollars each and up, depending on the individual quality. Cockerels are three dollars each and up. *We cannot afford to sell the pick of the cockerels*

1st Pullet Kansas State, 1910. Daughter of 1st Hen, Same Show.

for less, as CAPONS sold in bunches on the open market AVERAGE US THREE DOLLARS each. Only the best cockerels are kept for breeders. We must have as much for them as they would bring as Capons.

We will have but one grade of eggs to sell for setting purposes this season the BEST; these will be from our special exhibition matings, from our bred to-lay prize winning blood. We are going to sell these eggs at three dollars per setting; two settings for five dollars; 14 eggs to the setting.

GUARANTEE. We guarantee the eggs to be strictly fresh, nice smooth eggs, from special mated prize winning stock. Should you fail to hatch as many as nine chicks from each setting purchased of us we will replace the setting at one half price. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back. Please do not send personal checks, as we have to pay exchange on them. Remit by Bank Draft, Post Office Money Order or Express Order. Make them payable to

GEORGE BEUOY,
Cedar Vale, Kan.

Life member of American Poultry Association.
Member American Plymouth Rock Club.

JAN 29 1912

One copy del. to Cat. Div.

JAN 29 1912

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